

Ben GiaQuinta

State Representative

District 80



How To Reach
Representative

Ben GiaQuinta

RESIDENCE

4443 Pembroke Ln.
Fort Wayne, IN 46815

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

House of Representatives
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786
1-800-382-9842
H80@ai.org

**ANSWER THE
QUESTIONNAIRE ONLINE**

www.state.in.us/R80

Fall, 1999

Dear Friends,

Autumn is here and the General Assembly will meet for Organization Day on Tuesday, November 16. We will consider a package of bills that week, including an economic development package that would benefit many Hoosiers throughout the state.

The 2000 session is a "short" session, meaning we will begin session January 10 and finish before March 15.

In the short session, each House member may introduce only five pieces of legislation. While we will not re-open the two-year state budget passed earlier this year, the possibility remains that we may fine-tune some of the appropriations outlined in that legislation.

Inside this newsletter is my legislative questionnaire. The questions will provide some details about the topics that may be brought before the legislature. Your opinion is valuable to me as I consider how I will vote.

If you have any concerns or suggestions for change in your state government, please contact me at 1-800-382-9842.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ben GiaQuinta".



2000 Page Program

Serving as a page during the 2000 session allows any child age 13 or older the opportunity to gain a firsthand glimpse of how the legislative system works. Students will be excused from school on the day they are serving as a page and will spend the entire day at the Statehouse.

Interested students should send me their name, parent or guardian's name, address, phone number, school and two different dates when the student could come to the Statehouse between January 10 and February 29, 2000.

Please remember session is short and places fill up fast, so apply as soon as possible.

Our mission is to create an environment for Indiana's youth that is conducive to both fun and learning, and which will stimulate student interest in government and community involvement. To that end, we plan to educate students regarding legislative processes; to give students an opportunity to meet their community leaders; to encourage student involvement in the community; and to introduce students to other students around the state.

Family College Savings Plan

Established in 1997, the Family College Savings Plan is designed to give families the opportunity to save for college.

Accounts may be opened for children or adults with valid Social Security numbers. The money can be used for tuition, fees, textbooks, and room and board at public or private schools within or outside of Indiana, including technical schools.

Parents can invest in the fund through automatic payroll deduction, automatic withdrawal from checking or savings account, or mail-in payment contributions. Federal and state taxes are deferred on the money invested.

Parents may choose among four mutual funds with varying degrees of risk. Funds are administered by Bank One. Families may contribute up to \$114,548 to the plan, with a minimum contribution of \$25 and a lump sum limit of \$25,000.

Currently, less than one percent of Hoosier children under age 18 are enrolled in the program. For more information call 1-888-814-6800 or email CollegeSave@em.fcncbd.com.



Rep. GiaQuinta discusses legislation with Rep. Win Moses.

Indiana legislators deliver \$672 million in tax cuts



The 1999 biennial state budget provides \$672 million in savings for Indiana taxpayers. I have detailed some of the tax cuts below.

- **Homeowners:** Property taxes on a taxpayer's principal place of residence can be deducted up to \$2,500. The deduction is located on Schedule 1 of the IT-40.

- **Senior citizens:** The income tax deduction for seniors was increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500. Each taxpayer may take this deduction — meaning married couples may now deduct \$3,000 from their adjusted gross income. Seniors also received an increase in the property tax deduction from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

- **Dependent children:** The income tax deduction was increased from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for dependent children under age 19 and full-time students under age 24. You may reduce your Indiana adjusted gross income for each qualifying dependent.

- **Renters:** The renters' income tax deduction was increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000. This deduction is located on Schedule 1 of the IT-40 or the back of the IT-40EZ.

- **Small businesses:** Businesses will no longer have to "add-back" property taxes deducted on their federal returns.

- **Inventory tax cuts:** The inventory tax was eliminated for 87 percent of Indiana farms and businesses, saving \$129.6 million.

- **Property tax cuts:** The county welfare funds and the county welfare administration funds were eliminated from local property taxes, saving \$67.6 million.

2000 Legislative Survey

Questions

1. Should the state of Indiana eliminate the ISTEP program for testing students, and come up with another method of gauging progress in the classroom?
2. Do you believe the Indiana General Assembly should create a permanent commission designed to set salaries for elected officials, including the governor and members of the Legislature?
3. In recent years, Illinois and Ohio have deregulated electric service. Do you believe Indiana should follow suit?
4. Do you support passage of legislation that would allow people to have their names placed on a list that would prohibit telemarketers from calling them?
5. Who should pay the largest share of property taxes?
A. Agriculture B. Business C. Homeowners
6. Should the Legislature pass a measure that prevents units of government from suing gun manufacturers and dealers?
7. Do you favor passage of legislation that increases penalties against people who commit crimes against someone solely because of racial or sexual orientation?
8. Indiana presently ranks 48th in the nation in the amount of benefits provided to workers injured while on the job. Should injured workers be compensated at higher rates?
9. Do you believe that people have the right to hold their health maintenance organizations (HMOs) legally responsible for the health care decisions they make?
10. Should the State of Indiana provide funding to school corporations that choose to offer a full day of kindergarten?

Responses

Respondent 1

Respondent 2

- | | | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 2. | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 3. | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 4. | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 5. | A
<input type="checkbox"/> | B
<input type="checkbox"/> | C
<input type="checkbox"/> | A
<input type="checkbox"/> | B
<input type="checkbox"/> | C
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 7. | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 8. | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 9. | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 10. | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Your Comments

Place
Stamp
Here

Rep. Ben GiaQuinta
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786

House Publications Available

The following publications can be requested free of charge from my Statehouse office by calling toll-free 1-800-382-9842:

Relax . . . -- This informational booklet for senior citizens discusses a variety of issues, from taxes to health problems to leisure activities.

Higher Education -- A 24-page publication for those interested in pursuing a higher education degree, detailing many Indiana colleges and universities as well as occupational and vocational schools.

Guide to State Agencies -- This booklet details various agencies within Indiana state government, listing phone numbers, functions and general areas of responsibility for each of the state agencies.

Hoosier Fun and Facts -- Designed for elementary school-aged children, this information and activity book teaches students about their state through a combination of text, puzzles and other educational activities.

Is the address label on this mailing correct?

Please check the address label on this mailing for accuracy. If there are any errors or if you are receiving duplicate mailings, please contact my office at 1-800-382-9842. Every effort will be made to correct the mistake.

I appreciate your assistance in keeping the mailing list updated. This will ultimately result in more efficient delivery and substantial savings to taxpayers across the state.

Printed on Recycled Paper (80)

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Indiana House of
Representatives

Rep. Ben GiaQuinta
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786
Call toll-free 1-800-382-9842